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Bulgaria of To-day. xv and 299 pp., 38 half-tone Illustrations, Map, and Commercial Diagrams. Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture, Bulgaria, London, 1907.

The book was prepared by the Bulgarian Government for the Balkan States Exhibition at Earl's Court, London, in 1907. It is an excellent *résumé* of the geography, resources, and activities of Bulgaria, which has made wonderful progress in her independent existence during a quarter of a century. The geographical account of the country is to be criticised in one respect. Adequate geographical descriptions are based upon geology, and this volume contains no reference to the geology of Bulgaria.

Part 1 deals with the country and its population, sketches the history of the nation, describes the political organization, public instruction, the Bulgarian Church and other religions. Part 2 is devoted to economic conditions and development. The book is to be commended as a full and authoritative account of the Bulgaria of the present time.

The Value of Pure Water. By George C. Whipple. viii and 84 pp. John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1907. (Price, \$1.)

The book deals with problems of practical importance and great public interest. It is based upon the proposition that pure, as compared with impure, water has real financial value which may be measured by computing what impure water costs the community. The leading characteristics which affect the value of water to the consumer are its sanitary quality, its attractiveness, and its hardness.

The author suggests a formula for the computation of the effect of the sanitary quality of water on its financial value, based on the financial value of the lives lost by typhoid fever; a formula for computing the effect of the general attractiveness of water on its value, based on the physical characteristics of turbidity, colour and odour; and a formula for computing the effect of the hardness of water on its value to consumers based on the use of soap in the household.

He does not claim that his formulas have scientific accuracy, for some of his assumptions have not been established beyond doubt; but the general conclusions are not far out of the way and he certainly presents ample proof that an impure water supply not only affects the health and comforts of a community but also the pocketbooks of the people.

Thus he shows that, aside from all humanitarian considerations, no city can financially afford to distribute an impure water supply; that a water supply which is attractive in appearance, taste and odour, is of material advantage on the financial side; and that the economic advantages gained by correcting the hardness of water are very great. In brief, he demonstrates the possibility of computing the value of pure water in dollars and cents and shows that the financial value of filtration justifies its cost. He illustrates, in conclusion, the disadvantage of the use of hard water in the household, the industries, and in steam making.

Human life cannot be estimated in dollars and cents, but the financial basis is involved in all questions relating to public utilities; and, apart from this striking method of treating the water question on the financial side, the book is educational in its clear setting forth of the qualities that make water impure, the evil effects that follow the use of such water, and the benefits and cost of filtration.